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DEMOCRATIC

GERMAN REPORT

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Bonn Makes Rockets

A-Bombs, Poison Gas May Follow

West Germany has been given permission to manufacture guided missiles, Minister of State Profumo told the British House of Commons on July 27th.

Mr Profumo stated: "In accordance with the terms of the Revised Brussels Treaty the Supreme Allied Commander has recommended the Council of the Western European Union to make certain modifications in the treaty, the effect of which would be to permit the Federal German Government to take part in the manufacture of Hawk missiles. The council has now given its permission in principle."

Mr Emmanuel Shinwell, former Labour Defence Minister, commented: "Is this the thin end of the wedge? How long is it going to be before the Supreme Commander recommends that the Federal Government should be permitted to manufacture atomic weapons? What sort of nonsense is this?"

The British White Paper Cmd. 9304 of 1954 quotes the relevant treaty obligation as follows:

"The Federal Chancellor declares: that the Federal Republic undertakes not to manufacture in its territory any atomic weapons, chemical weapons or biological weapons ... that it undertakes further not to manufacture in its territory such weapons as those detailed in paragraphs IV, V and VI of the attached list."

The attached list enumerates "long-range missiles, guided missiles ... warships of more than 3,000 tons ... bomber aircraft for strategic purposes."

Military commentators in Bonn pointed out that the Hawk missile was indubitably a guided missile, as defined in the treaty. Since the treaty had now been modified in this respect there was no logical reason why West Germany should not now be given permission to produce some or all of the other banned weapons, including atom bombs, poison gas and strategic bombers.

GENEVA ENDS: POSITIONS CLOSER

West Germany's Obstructive Role

The Geneva Conference of the Big Four and the two German states came to a temporary end on August 5th with the official announcement that "the positions of both sides on certain points became closer".

Political observers in many capitals expressed the opinion that greater progress would have been made had it not been for the obstructive attitude of the West German Government.

The official communique issued on August 5th stated:

"The conference considered questions relating to Germany, including a peace treaty with Germany and the question of Berlin.

"The positions of the participants in the conference were set out on these questions. A frank and comprehensive discussion took place on the Berlin question. The positions of both sides on certain points became closer.

"The discussions which have taken place will be useful for the further negotiations which are necessary in order to reach an agreement ... The date and place for the resumption of the conference will be settled through diplomatic channels."

The obstructive role played by West Germany is shown clearly by two news items in responsible western newspapers. On August 3rd the London "Times" reported from Geneva: "A Berlin agreement could now be completed in a few hours, if not minutes, if both sides were willing to strike a final bargain over the remaining points."

Two days later, on August 5th, the liberal West German newspaper "Frankfurter Rundschau" reported from Geneva: "Political interest in the conference has sunk to nil following the successful efforts made at the end of the week by the West German delegation and (West Berlin Mayor) Brandt to convince the western powers of the danger of any agreement on Berlin. It has now become known that in the western camp, particularly amongst the Americans, there had been a readiness to reach a compromise with Gromyko on the question of troop strengths, propaganda activity and the stationing of rockets."

Commenting on August 5th on the temporary ending of the talks in Geneva, Democratic Germany's

Deputy Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht stated:

"No agreement was reached in Geneva because the Adenauer Government was opposed to agreement. If the West German representatives had been in favour of a peace treaty and the establishment of an All-German Commission, then the USA, France and Britain would have agreed. But the forces for peace in West Germany were not yet strong enough to alter the obstinate Adenauer policy.

"The strongest party in West Germany, the Social Democratic Party, made no attempt to bring pressure to bear on the Adenauer Government ... The method of the Social Democratic leadership in pushing all the blame onto Adenauer is not quite objective, since the Social Democratic leadership has pursued a passive role.

"But despite the obstructionist manoeuvres of the Adenauer Government, it was impossible to prevent an approach in the positions of the two sides ...

"There is one thing which we must always bear in mind: The longer the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany is delayed, while West Germany proceeds with atomic armament, the greater becomes the danger of acts of provocation in West Berlin and West Germany. The main task for all peace-loving people is and remains the taming of German militarism."

DR BOLZ SUMS UP

Here are some of the main points made by Dr Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, at the concluding session of the Geneva Conference on August 5th:

It is true to say that the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference has marked the beginning of a new era in negotiations on international questions of dispute.

All nations desire a solution of the most pressing problems threatening peace, particularly the nations represented at this table. That is the reason why we have raised our voice against the danger to peace represented by the speeded-up armament of West German militarism, and the maintenance of the occupation regime in West Berlin. The delegations of the German Democratic Republic and the Soviet Union tabled many proposals for the settlement of these questions.

It was of particular importance that from the very first day German representatives participated in the work of the conference. The invitation of German representatives meant that for the first time the western powers too admitted that it was impossible to solve questions affecting Germany without the participation of the two German states. The fact that this conference has come to an end without making the decision which the German people had the right to expect is mainly due to two factors:

1. The western powers refrained from drawing the conclusions from their own actions. Since both German states have participated in the Geneva Conference, it is clear that a peace treaty can and must be concluded with both German states. The western powers have shut their eyes to the facts, and the legal position, and thus to a simple and natural method of relaxing tension in the heart of Europe.

2. The attitude of the two German states to the Geneva Conference shows the utter difference of their political aims and political methods. The German Democratic Republic tried ... to reach decisions taking into consideration the justified interests of all parties; but the Government of the German Federal Republic proved that it was the main obstacle to a positive result.

I would recall our declaration that we would welcome the creation of a Four-Power Commission to work out a joint standpoint on a peace treaty, and the simultaneous creation of a commission of the two German states for the same purpose.

This proposal did not receive sufficient attention from the western powers. The claim was made that a peace treaty could not be concluded, since there was no All-German Government; but this would logically mean that efforts must be made to bring the two German states together. When the representatives of the German Democratic Republic made this proposal, the West German Government rejected negotiations between the two German states ...

It cannot be denied that if the German problem is not to be solved by force, then there must be negotiations.

Our proposals are clear and unmistakable. We have proposed the establishment of an All-German Commission which should deal with questions connected with the preparation and conclusion of a peace treaty, discuss measures for the reunification of Germany, and contribute to the development of contacts between the two German states.

This All-German Commission must be on a basis of parity, so that neither side is in a position to impose its will on the other ... The establishment of such a commission could not be a disadvantage to any honest German, and would be of great advantage to the whole German people.

The present government in Bonn is stubbornly opposed to these proposals, and receives the ready support of certain western circles ... but we are completely convinced that the historic necessity of negotiations between the two German states will triumph.

The particular importance of the Geneva Conference has been that all these questions have been aired, and the method of solution has been shown. At the same time the people of the world have been shown the baselessness of the objections to the solutions proposed.

It has been clearly shown at the Geneva Conference that the occupation regime in West Berlin cannot be maintained. A basic solution of this problem would be to convert West Berlin into a demilitarised free city. Agreement on a provisional status for West Berlin would naturally not be a thorough solution of the problem, but in order to free the West Berlin population from tension, and to safeguard the people of the German Democratic Republic from the dangerous development in West Berlin, we have made efforts to reach a provisional solution.

At this conference we have made every effort to reach an understanding, and have repeatedly made large concessions. We believe that it is anachronistic to speak of a legal basis for the occupation regime in West Berlin, fourteen years after the war; but despite this we have not objected to the suggestion that a symbolic western force, 3000 or 4000 strong, should remain in West Berlin, and that this provisional status

MORE ABOUT THOSE "REFUGEES"

Dr Lothar Bolz, Foreign Minister of the German Democratic Republic, dealt with the "refugee" question in his speech to the concluding session of the Geneva Conference on August 5th. Here is what he said:

The West German Government has used all sorts of tricks and excuses to avoid ... a rapprochement between the two German states.

One such trick was used here today by Professor Grewe (West German representative at the conference table, ed.), who talked about the movement of population between the two German states. The criminal Hitlerite war and its results have led in many cases to a change in domicile, which in the first place worked favourably for the state with the larger population. We do not deny that in past years citizens of our Republic have emigrated to West Germany in the hope of finding there economic advantages; hundreds of thousands of West Germans have emigrated overseas for similar reasons. Today the number of people going to West Germany is steadily decreasing, and the number of people moving from West Germany to the German Democratic Republic is steadily rising ...

But I must emphasise the following fact: there are today undoubtedly people who leave the German Democratic Republic for political reasons. This is understandable in view of the fact that Germany pursued an imperialist policy for 60 years, and that the German people were exposed for 12 years to the influence of National Socialist ideology. Those Germans who are still living in the past have more sympathies for West German policies than for our policies.

But the new factor in developments in Germany is that in the German Democratic Republic there are 17½ million people, and in the whole of Germany far more than 17½ million people who have learnt the lessons of German history, who have broken with the imperialist policy of revenge, and who give their active support to the policy of peace and understanding pursued by the German Democratic Republic. The fact that unreconstructed opponents of this policy leave our state is a sign of the fact that they have abandoned all hope of a change in the social system and peace policy of our state.

should be extended to 18 months. We have declared our readiness to make no demand for a change in the present communications of West Berlin with the outside world during the period of provisional status.

We were ready to give assurances that we should see no necessity for taking protective measures against West Berlin, if West Berlin ceased to be used for hostile propaganda against the GDR, or for intervention in our internal affairs. The western powers realise that the occupation regime in West Berlin cannot be continued for all eternity, but they still refuse to draw the necessary conclusions.

The peaceloving people of Germany cannot stand by watching with folded hands the dangerous antics of the German militarists. The danger has been shown once again recently by the fact that West Germany has been permitted to make guided missiles. The former British Defence Minister, Mr Shinwell, made the very fitting comment in the House of Commons: "How long is it going to be before the Supreme Commander recommends that the Federal Government should be permitted to manufacture atomic weapons?"

If the West German militarists are not promptly and unmistakably told that the absence of a peace treaty, and the absence of agreement on West Berlin, is not in any way licence for them to continue with their provocations, then the German Democratic Republic will be forced to take measures to guarantee the security of our peaceful work of construction ...

GDR's Healthy Economy

Everything but prices is steadily going up in the German Democratic Republic. This was shown once again by the official six-monthly report on the economy, published on July 31st.

The report, which covered the first half of 1959, showed that in this period industrial production was 12.4% percent higher than in the same period of 1958 — a faster rate of increase than that recorded in recent years by any industrial state in the capitalist world. In the same period productivity in industry rose by 9.6%, and wages by 3.5%.

The increase in production was almost exactly matched by the increase in goods bought in the shops, which went up by 13%; there were particularly large increases in the quantities of butter, meat, and fish bought, although Democratic Germany is already one of the leading countries in the world in the per capita consumption of these items.

Increases in the consumption of consumer goods is shown by the following figures: shoes 40% up, refrigerators 75% up, cars 90% up, TV sets 110% up. In all these categories demand still outstrips supply, however.

The number of new houses completed was 44% higher than in 1958, but the report stated that despite this big increase the building trade was still lagging behind the targets set, owing to slow industrialisation of house building, and short supplies of interior equipment.

On the foreign trade front further advances were recorded, with an overall export increase of 16%. There were great increases in many imports also, both industrial materials and consumer goods such as beef (220% up) and cocoa beans (131% up).

TUs In Danger

The trade union movement in West Germany is in danger, the "Holzarbeiter Zeitung", official organ of the Woodworkers' Trade Union, stated on August 1st. The paper stated:

"All the beautiful words spoken by ministers cannot conceal the fact that the workers' organisations in West Germany are only existing on toleration. Even this state of affairs is coming to an end. With the strengthening of reactionary forces in West Germany ... signs are increasing that the government and the bosses intend finally to bring the trade unions 'to heel', to make them conform, and if this is not successful, to split them. We should have no illusions. The bosses will use every method available. First the Communists were attacked: now the Industry Institute, which represents the bosses, has begun to describe Social Democratic shop stewards as 'not definitely freedom-loving forces'. Yesterday it was the Communists, today it is the Social Democratic shop stewards, tomorrow it will be the trade unions as a whole."

Visit To New-Style Village

By Frank Werdau

A trip to the village of Mestlin in Mecklenburg in the north of Democratic Germany would have been very difficult by train; the village is far from any railroad station; therefore we went by car — which meant a long, rough ride, for many of the smaller roads in Mecklenburg have not yet been repaired or improved.

After leaving the main road and travelling about seven miles on a small dirt road, we saw a group of small cottages thatched with reed and straw huddling around the little village church — this was the old Mestlin, which is hardly different from many other villages in the Schwerin District of Mecklenburg. The road continues from here directly to the new part of Mestlin, the real village centre for the 1400 inhabitants, which is, however, still closely connected with the old, more picturesque settlement.

After reaching the new village, the visitor finds himself quite suddenly in a wide village square surrounded by new buildings. On the left is the Cultural Centre with its appropriate architecture; a pleasant exterior combined with a functional design excluding any pompous pillars or the like, which would have cost lots of money without being any use to anybody. The simple, clear lines of the facade make for a really handsome building. Another impressive building is being completed nearby — the high school. And across from the cultural centre is a large store, with invitingly-decorated shopwindow displays very unusual for a village. On the other side of the square is a building which houses the village council and mayor's office, the post-office and a small tavern.

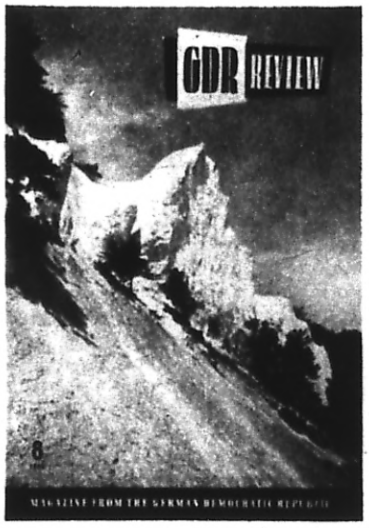
The city-dweller may well be surprised. Here is the village of the future. This impression is strengthened by a look at the street leading to the village square from the other direction, where a large number of two-story homes have been built. They are occupied by tractor-drivers, employees of the Machine and Tractor Station and members of the agricultural production cooperative (collective farm). The visitor may have been sceptical when he heard speeches in the city on the elimination of the main differences between city and country — it was difficult to imagine how this could be done and what it would look like. Here, in Mestlin, he can see the evidence of this Marxist theory in practice.

The new socialist programme in Mestlin began to take shape in the year 1952.

The agricultural cooperative, which has about 240 members, cultivates an area of 2118 hectares (5234 acres) and is thus the second largest in area in the German Democratic Republic. The cooperative farmers are already quite well off. The mayor estimates the average yearly income to be 8000 marks. (about £700). The last count of farm animals showed that the production cooperative has 100 horses, 700 head of cattle, 1400 hogs, 530 sheep, 5000 chickens, ducks and geese and 182 bee hives. A new sheep-fold and two big cow-sheds have been built, with mechanical dung-disposers, automatic watering troughs, and for the cows, of course, milking machines.

Just recently, the Machine and Tractor Station handed over 22 tractors, 5 harvester combines and many other agricultural machines to the cooperative. 28 tractor-drivers, previously employed at the station, decided to join the cooperative farm. These changes meant the beginning of a new stage in the development of large-scale cooperative farming, and if Mestlin continues with its present success, it will be an example for many other such farms.

The Cultural Centre is the home of all social and cultural life in the village. It is also its "university", in a sense. The building was completed in October 1957 at a cost of 3½ million marks. It contains a theatre with 412 seats (the stage and orchestra pit have all the latest modern installations), a restaurant, rooms for exhibitions, club meetings, lectures and gymnastics, a library and a photo-laboratory. Broad staircases and halls help prevent any cramped impression, and reflect in a way the broad stretches of the Mecklenburg landscape. Pictures have not been forgotten. The centre bought the painting "Land Reform" by Dubois and another painter designed a mural for the hall on the ground floor called "Mecklenburg Harvest". It was the cause of much argument, however. Most of the farmers don't like it. Some say it looks like a modern altarpiece, others are against the floric composition, the unnatural faces and unrealistic animals. Finally, the farmers all ask why, when they come to the centre for recreation after a hard day's work, they should be faced with pictures containing work themes. The farmers want to see something lighter and pleasanter after working hours. The club leadership should certainly make sure in



FREE SAMPLE

Chalk cliffs on Democratic Germany's Baltic coast, favourite holiday spot for vacationers from all over the Republic, form the cover subject for the August issue of "GDR Review", pocket magazine published in Dresden.

Every issue of the magazine brings articles, news, pictures and cartoons on many aspects of life in the German Democratic Republic.

The magazine is published monthly in English, French, Swedish and Spanish.

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TV TOWER NEARS COMPLETION

The 600-foot TV tower at Dequede near Osterburg, about 80 miles west of Berlin, is nearing completion. The technical equipment is now being installed in the "beehive" situated near the top of the tower. The GDR TV programme can now be seen in nearly all parts of the German Democratic Republic, in large areas of West Germany, and in parts of Denmark, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

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the future to find out the wishes of the people who will be looking at the pictures for years before commissioning any artists. It is wrong to say that farmers don't understand anything about such things. I feel that they understand more than some who talk fluently but superficially about the subject without any real feeling for it. In the town of Parchim this question was handled more successfully. The artists from the whole district arranged a small exhibition in the cultural centre there. The villagers came, looked at the pictures and took part in the ensuing discussion. The club leadership then bought those pictures which had pleased the villagers the most. Many farmers also dug down into their billfolds and bought etchings or watercolours for their own homes.

All facets of life are at home in the Mestlin cultural centre. Cinema programmes are scheduled twice a week and the cinema already is equipped to handle broad screen films.

There are also three theatre evenings a month, presented by visiting theatre groups from the Country Theatre at Parchim and the Schwerin State Theatre. 1200 inhabitants of the area have regular subscriptions to these performances. Many of the farmers were thus given the chance to see a stage play or opera for the first time; they are enthusiastic.

Also in the building are groups interested in various sports or some kind of folk arts and crafts. Especially important is the "Village Academy" which has a regular attendance of 60 farmers of both sexes. Some of the subjects presented have been: a lecture on embryo development and childbirth with a film on modern maternity ward methods, lectures on cancer and its treatment, on "How Life Began on Earth", also with scientific films, and on animal husbandry and cattle breeding problems. Then there are courses on the rights and duties of cooperative farmers, discussions on methods and problems by the poultry-raisers of the area, etc.

Such programmes and activities mean an enormous change in Mestlin and in its inhabitants. They may also be found in many other villages in Democratic Germany. They are a sign that life in the countryside is steadily bridging the cultural gap which always divided it so sharply from city-life in the past.

(Condensed from "Die Weltbühne", East Berlin)

"GDR Makes Atonement" — Israeli Politician

The GDR is making the best atonement to all peoples, including the Jewish people, by struggling for peace and against racialism, Samuel Mikunis, General Secretary of the Israel Communist Party stated in an interview on August 4th.

The interview was published in "Neues Deutschland", central organ of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany. The Neues Deutschland correspondent asked Mr Mikunis the following question:

At the last meeting of the Israeli Government, Prime Minister Ben Gurion described the GDR as "far worse than West Germany, because it pays no reparations to Israel, and, as the Bible states, it has 'killed and taken possession'." What is the attitude of the Communists of Israel to this statement?

Mr Mikunis replied: "Ben Gurion would naturally not refuse to accept from the GDR reparations or 'restitution' as he calls it, which he would use for his plans of adventure in the service of international imperialist reaction. But he cannot expect such payments, since the GDR fights for quite other goals than Bonn or the Israeli Government: for peace, against the militarists, for consistent denazification, for the elimination of all racialist theories, for collective security, for peaceful co-existence and international friendship — in one word, in order that the hell of the Second World War, which was particularly frightful for the Jewish people, should never be repeated.

"We believe that this policy on the part of the GDR is a very great contribution to the security of the Jewish people, since world peace will guarantee a future for the Jewish people.

"The people who mould and steer the GDR were themselves victims of Hitlerism; they did not 'kill' as Ben Gurion claims, but on the contrary were amongst the most consistent fighters against Hitler and his criminal policy. What they 'took possession' of was a Germany destroyed by Hitlerism, and they have made, and are making super-human efforts to convert the GDR into a bastion of peace, democracy, international friendship and socialism for the entire progressive movement of our generation.

"This is the finest atonement which the German people can make to all peoples, including the Jewish people."

Bonn Fakes "Anti-Racialist" Law

The West German Ministry of Justice has drafted a new law intended to create the impression that strong steps are being taken against anti-Semitism in West Germany. The new law would impose heavier penalties on racialist propagandists, but is so framed that jurists stated it would be almost impossible to obtain a conviction under the law. The Central Council of Jews in Germany stated: "The draft law in its present form will not meet its purpose".

The West German news magazine "Spiegel", commenting on the draft law on August 5th, stated: "For the West German Government the change in the criminal code is not so much a legal measure as a propaganda move designed to free the Bonn state, both at home and abroad, from the bad reputation which it has for allowing infamous attacks upon the Jews and upon human dignity."

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Minister Calls For "Lebensraum"

The old nazi slogan of "Lebensraum" — living space — for the Germans has been revived by a West German Minister, Walter Stain, Minister of Labour in the Bavarian Provincial Government.

(The "Lebensraum" theory claims that Germany is overpopulated, and that therefore wars of aggression must be launched to win more living space.)

Speaking in Aschaffenburg on August 1st, Herr Stain stated: "The German Federal Republic is like a boiler under high pressure: either the excessive pressure must be allowed to stream out into the empty territories of central Europe, or there will be an explosion. We need more land; everybody should note this, particularly the young generation of those driven from their homeland."

Herr Stain was addressing a meeting of members of the former pro-nazi German minority in Czechoslovakia, who were moved to Germany at the end of the war under the terms of the Potsdam Agreement. Large rallies of these German expellees, formerly resident in Czechoslovakia and territory which is now part of Poland and the Soviet Union, are staged every weekend in various parts of West Germany.

At the end of July pressure from these groups, which have the declared aim of "re-winning Germanic territory", forced the West German Government to abandon plans which it had made to suggest the conclusion of non-aggression pacts with Czechoslovakia and Poland. Political observers in Bonn believed that the West German Government had no serious intention of concluding such pacts, but that it wished to make a non-committal announcement on the question in order to impress world public opinion.

On July 28th the conservative West Berlin newspaper "Tagesspiegel" made this comment on the situation:

"German observers in Geneva admit that the (West) German Government is on the horns of a dilemma. On one hand it would like to make a 'constructive move' in Geneva in order to counter the eastern allegation that the German Federal Republic 'seeks revenge'. On the other hand there is the danger that such a step would result in a storm of protest from the Expellee Organisations, and that over-sensitive foreign countries would then interpret these protests as signs of 'revenge-seeking' emotions."

Mr PRITTIE SUMS UP

Hostile Journalist Reports on GDR Industry

Mr Terence Prittie, Bonn correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian", has in the past few years won himself a reputation as one of the fiercest propaganda opponents of the German Democratic Republic. GERMAN REPORT has often had reason, most lately on July 3rd this year, to correct his unreliable reports. This makes all the more interesting a survey of East German industry written by Mr Prittie and published in the "Manchester Guardian" on July 30th. Here are some of the main points from this article:

Comecon (western designation for the Council for Mutual Economic Aid of the Socialist countries, ed.) has now evolved far-reaching plans for the East German Republic. Their purpose is to co-ordinate the East German economy, and particularly its Seven-Year Plan (1959-1965), with policies for the expansion of the economies of all the States of the Communist block. Eastern Germany is already exchanging industrial information, technical experts, and patents with its Communist neighbours on a scale much larger than has ever been attempted among the Western nations. Under Comecon's plans it will be required to specialise in certain fields of production as part of the general pattern of development within the Communist block.

These are some of the more important tasks which have been allotted to the East German Republic:

It must more than double its chemical production by 1965. In the Communist block it will become, next to the Soviet Union, the biggest producer of potash, petrochemicals, calcined soda, and plastics. Comecon intends to raise plastics production, in the whole Communist block, from 350,000 tons to 6,000,000 tons by 1975. The Soviet Union will help Eastern Germany by building an oil pipeline from the Ukraine to Schwedt, three miles west of the river Oder. Work has begun on the pipeline and it should be completed by the end of 1963. By 1965 it is scheduled to bring 4.8 million tons of crude oil annually into Eastern Germany. The Soviet Union is already delivering more than a million tons of oil a year to Eastern Germany, where it is being processed in the old I.G. Farben plants in Leuna and Bitterfeld.

Eastern Germany will invest at least 9,000 million marks in its chemical industry during the course of its Seven-Year Plan (during the previous Five-Year Plan it invested only 1,200 million marks) ... The importance which the Soviet Union attaches to the East German chemical industry is illustrated by the choice of Berlin as the seat of Comecon's Permanent Commission for Chemistry.

Eastern Germany is to become the main producer of zinc and nickel in the Communist block. The main centre of both industries will be St Egidien, near Chemnitz (now Karl-Marx Stadt, ed). The nickel plant which is being built here will cost 160 million marks and should be completed by 1963, though production will start in 1961. Eastern Germany will remain the biggest Communist producer of brown coal products. These will be increasingly used for specialised purposes, while Eastern Germany's fuel requirements will be met increasingly by imported hard coal from Poland and Czechoslovakia.

The Communist block is short of shipping, and of shipbuilders, and Eastern Germany has been given a surprisingly big rôle to play here. In general Eastern Germany will concentrate on building ships of between 5,000 and 15,000 tons, while smaller ships are built on the Black Sea and ships of over 15,000 tons by Poland and the Soviet Union. The closest co-operation between Poland and Eastern Germany has been demanded by the Soviet Union. The East German Warnow shipyard is expected to have its first large nuclear-power freighter in commission by 1965.

Eastern Germany and Czechoslovakia have been selected as the countries best fitted to build cement and sugar beet factories. Eastern Germany will also specialise in the production of fine mechanical goods and optics, heavy turbines and tractors, cranes, locomotives and rolling stock, and nuclear power. The first nuclear power plant should be in commission by the end of next year; the second by 1965.

Communist economic planning has gone wrong before, and there is no reason why it should not go wrong again. But this is much less likely than before in Eastern Germany. Food rationing has been abolished; the early muddles over collectivisation of the land are not being repeated, and most of the half-million acres of farming land which were untenanted three years ago are being farmed to-day. Production of electrical power has increased by 168 per cent since 1950, even though there are still periodic shortages at industrial plants. Comecon's early planning, aimed at making the Communist block countries more self-sufficient in heavy industrial products, has achieved results. Eastern Germany now produces three million tons of hard coal and three million tons of steel a year.

Eastern Germany is being bound ever more closely into the Communist block—already about 75 per cent of its trade is with the other Communist States. So detailed and precise is Comecon's planning that one can see only one major difficulty ahead for the East German regime. This is shortage of manpower. Under the Seven-Year Plan there must be at least an 80 per cent increase in output, but with an almost static labour force ... The only way to overcome the shortage of labour is increased mechanisation, and this costs money. Already capital investment a head of the population is higher than in Western Germany ... Living standards will be raised, possibly a little more slowly than Comecon envisages ...

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BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By John Peet

Several West German newspapers have recently published the text of a song which is apparently very popular in the West German Wehrmacht. It goes like this:

"We want to march to victory or death.
Narvik, Rotterdam, Corinth and hot Crete
Are the scenes of our victories.
We always attack, Grenadiers are in the van,
Ready to do or die."

Recall

Let us just recall what happened, some eighteen years ago, at the places named as "the scenes of victories" — nazi victories, of course.

Narvik, in Norway. This was a famous victory. Narvik was captured on April 9th 1940 by German fifth columnists in civilian clothes who landed from freighters. The Norwegian Government announced on April 29th: "The Germans acted contrary to all the rules of international law".

Rotterdam, in Holland. Another fifth column victory, aided by indiscriminate bombing. The entire centre of the city was razed to the ground by German bombers in a Coventry-type raid.

Corinth, in Greece. Captured by German parachute troops on April 27th 1941 after Hitler's unprovoked aggression against Greece.

Crete. Captured by German parachute troops on June 1st 1941. I wonder how long it will be before the West German Wehrmacht starts singing songs about the famous victories of Lidice and Oradour?

Violent Attacks

There was an interesting exchange in the British House of Commons on July 28th. Let me quote it from the "Times" report of July 29th:

"Colonel Tufton Beamish (Lewes, Cons.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the Soviet Government were conducting a sustained propaganda campaign against the Iranian Government.

"Mr Profumo, Under-Secretary, in a written reply, states: Yes ... Soviet broadcasts, particularly those in Persian which total 49 hours weekly, have for some months included violent attacks on the Shah of Iran and the Iranian Government. Her Majesty's Government deplore these attacks on a friendly and allied Government, which can only have the effect of increasing tension ..."

Now I do not happen to understand Persian, so I am in no position to judge whether Soviet broadcasts in that language include "violent attacks". But I do understand German, and I sometimes listen to the BBC's special daily programme "for the East Zone" which is specially aimed at listeners in the German Democratic Republic. I can assure Mr Profumo that these special transmissions almost always include really violent attacks on the Government of the German Democratic Republic. If Mr Profumo is in earnest in deploring "violent attacks ... which can only have the effect of increasing tension" I suggest that he should request translations of some of these programmes and have a look at them himself. If he runs into any difficulty I would be glad to provide him with examples of the sort of violent attacks which are being made: and I have a feeling that if the Foreign Office spoke sternly to the gentlemen in Bush House who originate the programme they would listen to the advice given and desist.

Poaching Figures

Regular readers may have noticed that I have a weakness for statistics, particular the back-waters of those huge statistical tables with which you can often prove almost anything. Today's gleaning comes from the 1959 Statistical Year Book for West Berlin, which reveals that West Berlin, which most people think of as a heavily built up metropolitan area, possesses no fewer than 5124 cows. Even more surprising is the fact that 54 poachers were detected during 1958: and 13 of them were women. Unfortunately GDR statistics do not classify poachers in a separate category, so I cannot tell you whether in this field the east has overtaken or outstripped the west. It appears unlikely, since in 1958 the courts of East Berlin only sentenced about one half as many people for all classes of crimes as the courts of West Berlin, in proportion to population.

Democratic Germany On the Air

30.83 metres = 9730 kcs
41.10 metres = 7300 kcs
49.06 metres = 6115 kcs

The times of the programmes are as follows:

ENGLISH: 18.00, 20.00, 22.00 GMT
FRENCH: 18.30, 20.30, 22.30 GMT
SWEDISH: 17.00, 19.30, 21.30 GMT
DANISH: 17.30, 19.00, 21.00 GMT

Programmes in Arabic are broadcast on wavelength 30.83 metres from 04.00–05.00 GMT and from 13.00–16.00 GMT.

Self – Service Paint

In a recent number GERMAN REPORT commented on the sudden rash of self-service stores which was breaking out all over Democratic Germany. In some cases enthusiasm seems to be out-running discretion: at any rate I have begun to have nightmares about a self-service paint store which is due to open on a busy corner near my home. Proper packaging is still a big problem here, and on the few occasions when I have bought some paint it has generally been dolloped out of a big pot, or the colours wanted have been made up on the spot. I now have ghastly visions of bespattered customers stirring huge vats and then serving themselves. But probably my imagination is too lively. Putting on my oldest clothes as a precautionary measure, I hope to attend the opening of the self-service paint shop in the near future, and report.

Happy Birthday

Democratic Germany is going to have an important anniversary soon. On October 7th the Republic will be celebrating its tenth birthday. GERMAN REPORT will join in the celebrations with a special 16-page issue which should be reaching subscribers in Europe early in September, and overseas subscribers rather later. In the short space of 16 pages we hope to give you a potted history of Europe's youngest state, and a series of articles showing what has been done to make-over one part of Germany in the short space of ten years.

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